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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are in the application. The Examiner has identified claims directed to the following purportedly patentably distinct species:

- A. The species of the precursor treatment: chemical or physical treatment.
- B. The species of the pre-rinse treatment: chemical or physical treatment.
- C. The species of the post-rinse treatment: chemical or physical treatment.
- D. The species of the substrate.
- E. The species of the chemical treatment for each of the pre-cursor, pre-rinse and post-rinse treatments, if the chemical treatment is elected.
- F. The species of the physical treatment for each of the pre-cursor, pre-rinse and post-rinse treatments, if the physical treatment is elected.

Without accepting the Examiner's allegation that the species are independent or distinct "because they are mutually exclusive", but rather in an attempt to advance the prosecution, Applicants hereby make the following elections, with the claims readable thereon listed:

- A. Precursor treatment: physical – UV radiation (claims 1-7 and 11-30).
- B. Pre-rinse treatment: physical – sound energy (claims 1-25 and 29-30).
- C. Post-rinse treatment: physical – laser (claims 1-14 and 18-30).
- D. Substrate species: semiconductor devices and wafers, specifically, silicon (claims 1-4 and 6-30).
- E. (none)
- F. See A-C above.

As the Examiner acknowledges, claim 1 is generic.

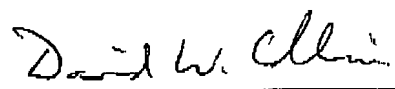
Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, then Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

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The application is considered to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to take such action. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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